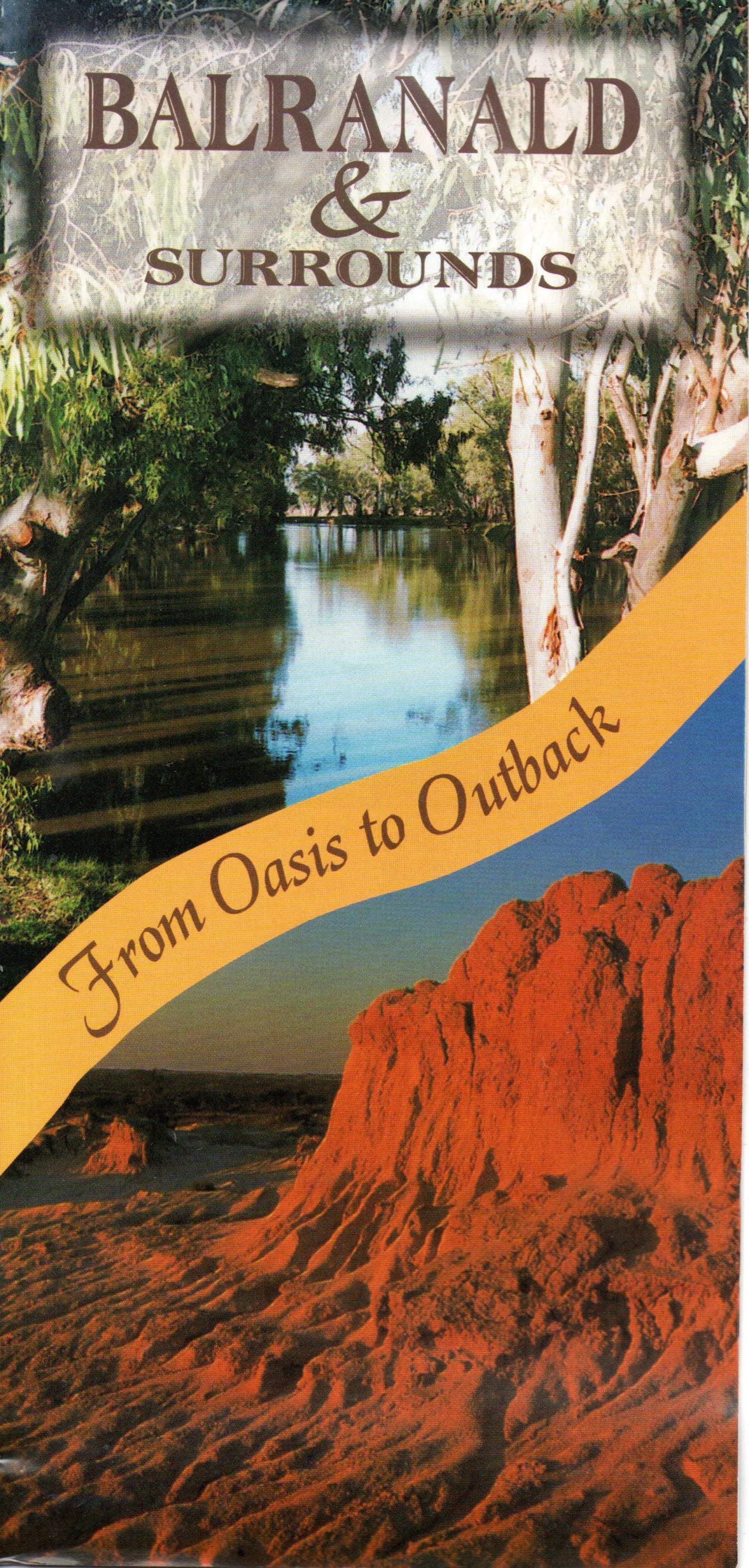


BALRANALD & SURROUNDS



From Oasis to Outback

BALRANALD

EARLY HISTORY

Balranald is the oldest settlement on the Lower Murrumbidgee, with records dating back well before 1850.

In 1847/1848 George James McDonald, the Commissioner for Crown Lands for the Lower Darling District, came to the embryo village. McDonald, a Scotsman was from a small town called Balranald in the Outer Herbrides, and perhaps it was natural for him to christen his adopted place of abode "Balranald".

"Bal (Celtic) means abode, township, a village thus Balranald signifies an abode of Ranald - or the clan of Ranald.

In 1830 Captain Charles Sturt and his party became the first white man to pass the site of

Balranald.

In 1836 Mayor Thomas Mitchell stopped on the site of Balranald during his momentous trip following the L a c h l a n , Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers..



In 1853 the river steamboat trade commenced with the advent of Cadell's "Lady Augusta" and Randell's "Mary-Ann", and within

a few years Balranald became an inland port.

The third, and probably most famous exploring party through Balranald was that of Burke and Wills, who crossed the Murrumbidgee by the Mayall Street Punt on 17th September, 1860, and camped overnight on the river bank in front of the Balranald Inn.



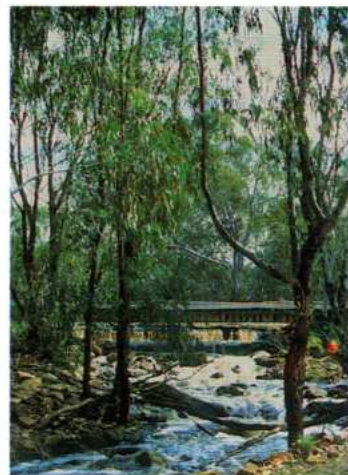
BALRANALD

BALRANALD TODAY

Balranald is a thriving centre with a diverse agricultural and pastoral base. Supplementing the traditional activities are viticulture and horticulture near the river, and an expanded awareness of tourism.

Balranald Shire covers an area of approximately 21,418 square kilometres and is approximately 60 metres above sea level, and includes townships such as Euston - Hatfield - Homebush - Clare - Oxley and Kyalite.

Forming part of the boundaries of the Shire are the Rivers Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Wakool and the Murray. There are a number of large permanent lakes within the Shire, the most notable being Yanga Lake at Balranald and Lake Benanee near Euston.



Other areas are periodically flooded.

The average summer temperature is around 28°C which is quite pleasant as the area does not suffer from the humidity prevalent in coastal regions. Winters are usually mild with cool to cold nights and fine days.



PARKS & REST AREAS

BALRANALD LIONS PARK

Market Street, Balranald (main street). Barbecues, toilets, playground and bus parking.

THE BEND

Right on the Murrumbidgee. Shady parking and swimming spot, bus parking and BBQ. No toilets or drinking water.

GREENHAM PARK

We St, Balranald. Swimming pool, showers, toilets, recreation ground and bus parking.

HERITAGE PARK

Market Street, Balranald. Tourist information, toilets, barbecue and bus parking.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

*National Parks & Wildlife Service, Buronga.
Phone (03) 5023 1278.*

The Willandra Lakes Region, partly situated in Mungo National Park, has World Heritage listing and features "The Walls of China" - world wide significance for archeological discoveries and dry Lake Mungo. Situated 140kms north of Balranald, Mungo is an ideal day trip.

YANGA LAKE

Approx 8km from Balranald, east on the Sturt Highway, near Waugarah Road turn off.

LOW LEVEL WEIR

Only 6km west of Balranald on the Sturt Highway. Turn left into Weir access road for barbecues and rest area.

RED BANK WEIR

Approx 58 km north east of Balranald on Homebush-Oxley road. Barbecues, tables and chairs, public toilets and grassed areas.

LAKE BENANEE

Approximately 13 km north east of Euston on Sturt Highway. Barbecues, toilets, water skiing and camping.

WHERE THE RIVER'S FUN

The Mighty Murray River, great for boating, water skiing with the convenience of a boat ramp in front of the Euston Club. There are several sandbars with access roads, which are great for camping and fishing. The Murray is very wide and useable so try hiring a houseboat for the weekend or a week to travel up and down the Murray. Lake Benanee is in close proximity to Euston and is also a great spot and used for water skiing, sailing and camping.

The Euston Club stands on the site of the Shailer Hotel. Prior to the opening of the Euston bridge a punt ferried people across the river opposite Shailer Hotel. The bridge was then built and opened in 1924. The river barges would stop at the site of Berretts Park. The old barges would carry hundreds of bags of wheat from outlying stations.



Set in a delightful setting is the Weir Lock 15 and fishladder. The lock was established in 1934 and is down river from the Euston township. At this site the river is 500 feet wide. The lock allows passage for paddle steamers and house boats. The fish ladder is very interesting, it allows fish to travel upstream. The ladder was established in 1938.

Euston Court House was established in early 1850. The Court was recently restored in 1996 and a credit to those who took part in the restoration.



WHERE THE RIVER'S FUN

In the mid 1850's Henry Talbot established a ferry service on the Wakool River in the district now known as Kyalite.

As was common in those days Talbot's business expanded to a grog shanty providing drinks, meals and accommodation to travellers.

In the late 1850's the foundations to the original Wakool Hotel Kyalite were laid.

Today Kyalite is a tiny country town of about 30 people with its famous pub and a general store amid wheat and sheep country.



In agricultural circles Kyalite is renowned for its rich red productive soils.

To the recreational camper Kyalite is known for its endless river systems and boundless State Forests.

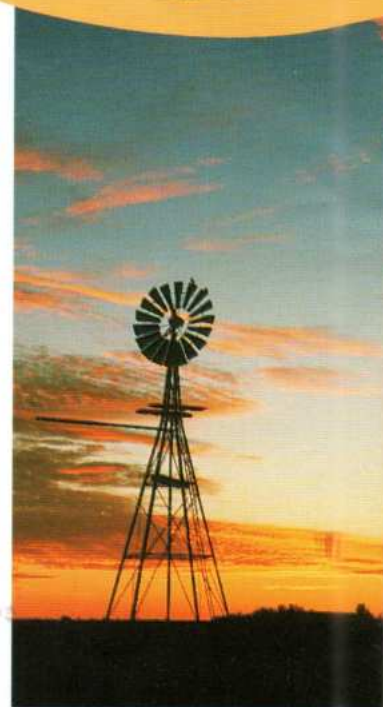


HATFIELD

The great Aussie Outback is on your doorstep at Hatfield where distances are great, populations small and hospitality Huge.

Experience the real Australia. Flat saltbush plains, red sandy ridges and the air the way it was meant to be, clear, crisp and refreshing.

Unbelievable sunsets and bright starry nights.*

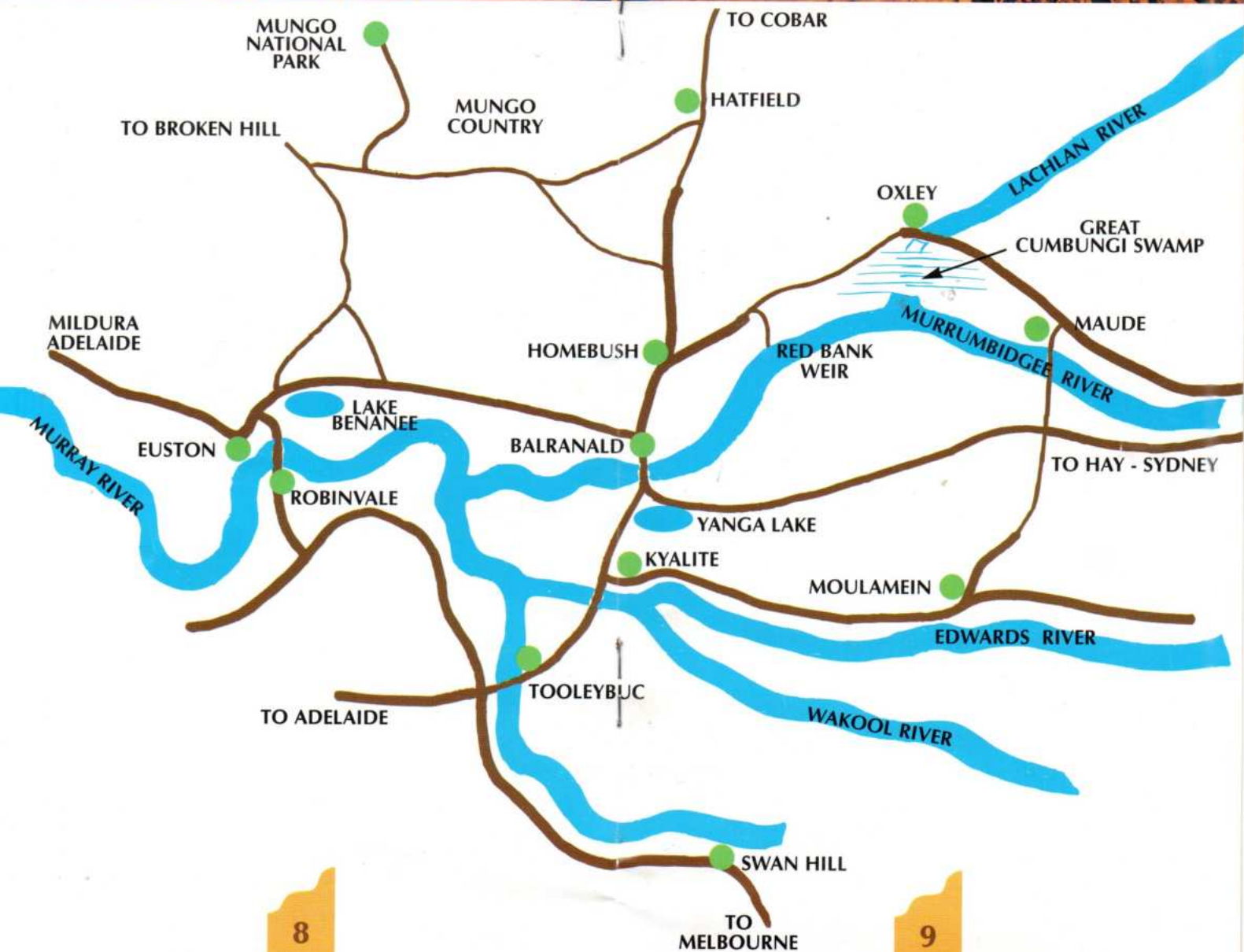


HOMEBUSH

When Burke and Wills' expedition passed through the area in September 1860 at the back of where the Homebush Hotel now stands there were already signs of settlement in the vicinity.

It was not until 17 years later on July 26th, 1877 a conditional purchase was made and Michael Dowdican applied for the land on which the Homebush Hotel now stands. The date on the front of the Hotel gives the year 1878 as being the date of commencement of business.

BALRANALD & SURROUNDS



FEATURES

Mungo National Park covers most of an ancient dry lake bed on the plains of western NSW. During the ice ages Lake Mungo was one of a chain of enormous freshwater lakes strung along Willandra Creek, then the main channel of the Lachlan River, flowing to the Murrumbidgee. Today, a great crescent-shaped dune (lunette), the "Walls of China", stretches along the eastern shore of Lake Mungo.

The vegetation of the park is typical of the plains of western NSW. Belah (Casuarina) is the dominant species on the sand plains and bladder saltbush is dominant on the slightly saline clays of the lakebed. Mallee grows on the dunefields.

Red kangaroos, western grey kangaroos, echidnas, native mice and bats occur at Mungo. Resident lizards include shinglebacks, bearded dragons and geckos, while native birds such as an emu, pink cockatoos and orange and white-fronted chats can also be seen.



The park lies 103km north of Euston and 146km north-west of Balranald on the Arumpo-Ivanhoe Road.

A visitor centre is located near the entrance to the park. A stop at the centre will enable you to learn about Mungo's natural and cultural history before you explore the park.



ABORIGINAL ARTS-CULTURE-HERITAGE

The Willandra Lakes preserve the longest continuous record of Aboriginal life in Australia, from 40,000 years ago to the present. When the lakes were full, Aboriginal people camped along the shores and fished for golden perch, yabbies and shellfish.

They buried their dead in the sand dunes with the oldest funeral ceremonies recorded in the world - cremation, and the covering of the deceased with powdered ochre.

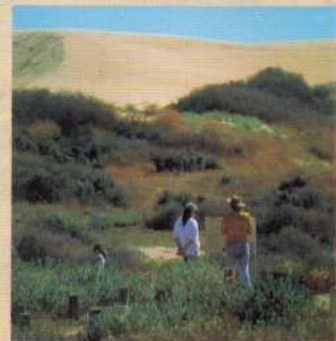
ARTS

The local area is blessed with some fine indigenous artists, who are well renowned for their work. Bark Painters and makers of didgeridoos, boomerangs and other artifacts.



GARDEN OF EDEN

Lake Mungo is the site of the oldest organised society in Australia, where human remains have been found. 40,000 years ago it was a Garden of Eden, a lush paradise teeming with life. Now it is a parched desert... and also a sacred site for Aborigines and non-Aborigines alike.



With four junctions within the Shire boundaries we are to the recreational fisherman,

"THE HEART OF THE RIVERLAND"

Junctions

- Edwards into Wakool
- Wakool into Murray
- Murrumbidgee into Murray at Boundary Bend

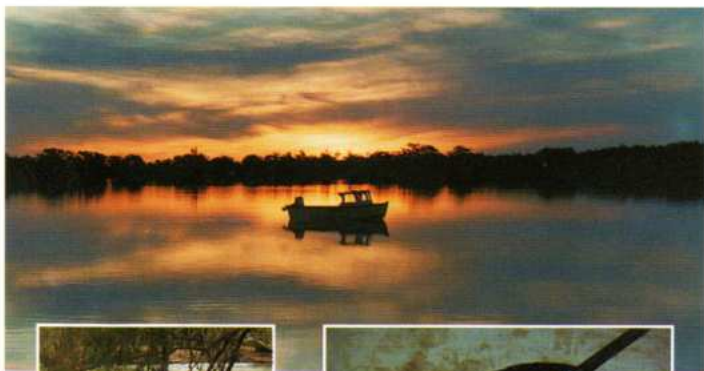
This area around Kyalite enjoys the reputation of having the best Murray Cod waters in Australia

- Lachlan - Great Cumbungi Swamp Murrumbidgee near Oxley (when rivers are flooded)

The Murrumbidgee around Balranald offers some great spots within the town where good size Perch, Redfin and Murray Cod have been caught off the banks.

At Euston the Murray offers some great fishing off the banks and many sandbars with access roads.

The many permanent lakes and weirs in the district also offer excellent fishing.



BIRD WATCHING

A vast variety of birds can be spotted by the expert and novice birdwatcher.

On the 11th of October, 1996, 55 species were spotted between Balranald and Mungo National Park.



PHOTOGRAPHY

An abundance of flora and fauna, excellent outback scenery and spectacular sunsets will provide a smorgasbord of opportunities for professional and amateur photographers.



TOURING

An extensive network of roads (sealed & gravel) and tracks allows the tourist to go outback in the comfort of the family car, and for the 4WD enthusiast the opportunities are endless.



AQUATIC

Canoeing, Water Skiing, Sailing and Windsurfing are centred on the Murrumbidgee, Wakool and Murray Rivers, as well on Yanga Lake at Balranald and Lake Benanee near Euston.



SWIMMING

Balranald Shire Council provides a swimming complex consisting of three pools.

The rivers and lakes also provide excellent spots to cool down on the hot summer days.



BOWLS

You will enjoy the hospitality of the three bowling clubs in the district.

Balranald Ex-Servicemen's Bowling Club
Balranald Golf and Bowling Club
Euston Bowling & Recreation Club



GOLF

Balranald Golf Club has 18 grassed greens where visitors are more than welcome.



ACCOMMODATION

Motels

Balranald Motor Inn.....(03) 5020 1104
Colony Inn Motel.....(03) 5020 1302
Motel Capri(03) 5020 1201
Shamrock Motel.....(03) 5020 1107
Sturt Motel.....(03) 5020 1309
Euston Motel.....(03) 5026 3806

Lodges & Guesthouses

Mungo Lodge(03) 5029 7297

Caravan Parks & Camping

Balranald Shire Council
Caravan Park(03) 5020 1321
Mungo National Park Camping & Shearers' Quarters.....(03) 5023 1278
Euston Riverfront
Caravan Park(03) 5026 1543
Kyalite Caravan Park ... (03) 5038 2221

REGISTERED CLUBS

(with dining facilities)

Balranald RSL Club,
Market Street(03) 5020 1205
Restaurant.....(03) 5020 1253
Euston Bowling & Recreation Club,
Nixon Street.....(03) 5026 4244
Restaurant.....(03) 5026 4856
(EFTPOS Available at both Clubs)

DINING

Hotels

Homebush Hotel(03) 5020 6803
Euston Hotel(03) 5026 3638
Kyalite Hotel.....(03) 5038 2221
Shamrock Hotel.....(03) 5020 1607

Restaurants

Balranald Motor Inn.....(03) 5020 1104
Rafferty's
Restaurant Cafe.....(03) 5020 1980
Shamrock Motel.....(03) 5020 1107
Mungo Lodge(03) 5029 7297

Coffee Shops and Takeaways

Ampol Truckstop, Sturt Highway
Balranald Take-Away, Market Street
BP Roadhouse, Sturt Highway
Camo's Mobil Handymart,
Sturt Highway
Euston Riverfront Cafe Take-Away
Mobil Service Station, Market Street
Shell Roadhouse,
Cnr Market St & River St.

Caltex Service Station,
Carey Street, Euston

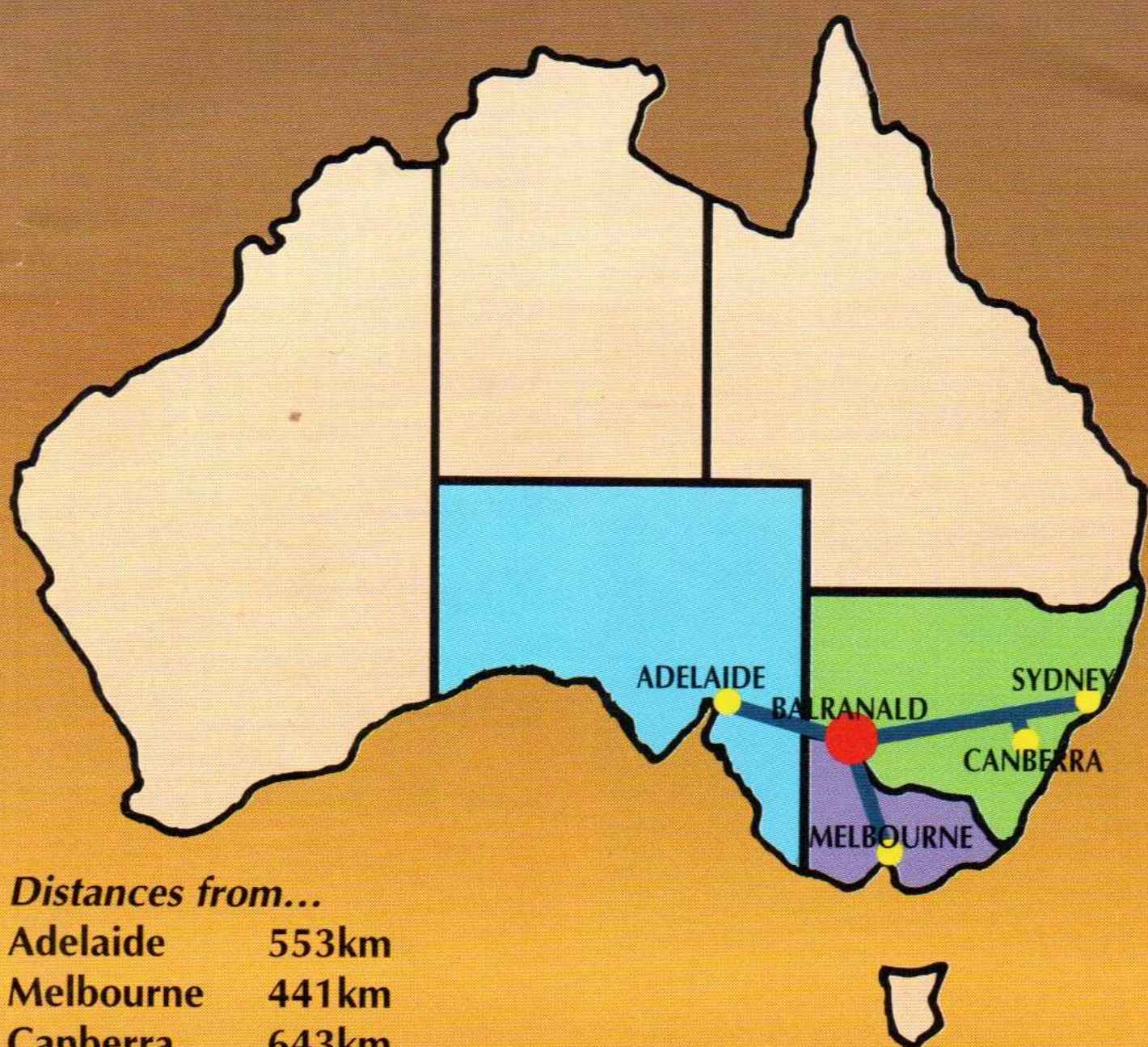
Shell Petrol Station,
Murray Terrace, Euston

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police(03) 5020 1404
74 Market Street
Ambulance.....131233 all hours
47 Court Street
Fire Brigade(03) 5020 1655
113 Market Street
Balranald Rescue Squad,
UFH Channel 5(03) 5020 1422
Balranald District Hospital,
41 Court Street.....(03) 5020 1606

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Heritage Park Information Centre, Market Street Balranald. (03) 5020 1599



Distances from...

Adelaide	553km
Melbourne	441km
Canberra	643km
Sydney	870km

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